

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NASSAU 1088

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: BRITISH ROLE.

REF: NASSAU 1083 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: UK RECENT ACTIONS HAVE BEEN UNHELPFUL AND ADDED FUEL TO US-BAHAMIAN FISHERIES DISPUTE. RECOMMEND WE MAKE CLEAR OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH THIS TO HMG.

2. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF BACKGROUND TO LATEST EPI-SODE IN US-BAHAMIAN FISHERIES DISPUTE. IT HAD ITS ORIGINS IN A STUDY THAT THE POLICE COMMISSIONER AND THE ROYAL NAVY RESIDENT OFFICER ARE DOING ON FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GOBI POLICE MARINE FORCE. (DETAILS OF REPORT AND PROBLEMS IT WILL PROBABLY CAUSE FOLLOW IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.)

3. AFTER HAVING BEEN ADVISED THAT UK WAS NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE A FRIGATE TO SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OF GOBI FISHERIES LAW (NASSAU 1021), CONGEN SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT HMS PLYMOUTH WAS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS EXERCISE OFF BIMINI TO SHOW NEED FOR LARGER VESSEL(S) OPERATING WITH POLICE BOATS. GOVERNOR, WHO GOT IN ON THE WHOLE PLAN LATE, ASSURED US THAT THE WHOLE EXERCISE WOULD COME TO NAUGHT (NASSAU 1023). NOW, OF COURSE, THE RESULTS WILL SERVE TO WHET GOBI APPETITE FOR A LARGER FORCE.

4. AS REPORTED NASSAU 1029, 1030, OUR EFFORTS TO GET GOBI TO ENGAGE IN JOINT PATROLLING IN THE FLAMINGO CAY AREA AND TO INVESTIGATE THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN NAVAL VESSELS OFF ANDROS (NASSAU 1078) HAVE ALL BEEN REBUFFED. IT IS OBVIOUS THE BRI-

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(When Filled In)

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FISH EXPERTS WERE DETERMINED THAT NOTHING SHOULD INTERFERE WITH THE DEMONSTRATION TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSIONS OF THEIR STUDY. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY WENT AHEAD WITH MEASURES WHICH CLEARLY EXACERBATED THE FISHERIES DISPUTE AT THE VERY TIME WHEN WE WERE MAKING SPECIAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO AMELIORATE THIS DISPUTE.

5. IN MY VIEW BRITISH OFFICIALS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO ACT IN IRRESPONSIBLE FASHION WHICH HAS ADDED TO STRAINS ON US-GOBI RELATIONS AND I URGE THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE THIS CLEAR TO HMG. I AM PREPARED TO TAKE A SIMILAR LINE WITH GOVERNOR. HOPFULLY THIS WILL GET HMG TO FOCUS POLICY-LEVEL ATTENTION ON THIS SITUATION AND KEEP THE TECHNICIANS FROM ADDING TO OUR PROBLEMS HERE, LONDON WOULD SEEM THE MOST APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR THESE REPRESENTATIONS AS THE FCO MUST BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE IDEA OF ONLY ONE FISH WAR PER NATO ALLY AT A TIME. GDS. SPEAR

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